

WASHINGTON.

«Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable.»

MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1850.

A story has recently been put in circulation, that the President of the United States will veto the bill for the admission of the State of California into the Union, should it be accompanied by Territorial bills or other measures.

The President has never assumed any such ground. One of the greatest complaints now made against him by his opponents is, that he declines to interfere with or to attempt to control the legislation of Congress. He has performed his constitutional duty, and fully recommended, in regard to the newly-acquired Territory, such measures as in his judgment are best calculated to promote harmony and good feeling, by avoiding the unnecessary discussion of the agitating questions of the day. He has not attempted by any other means to influence or control the opinion of Congress in reference to this vexed question; nor have any of his Cabinet Ministers. The President, having performed his whole duty in this particular, leaves the decision of the subject to the wisdom and patriotism of that enlightened body, whose constitutional duty it is to assist him in the administration of the Government, and to whom he looks with confidence for a satisfactory adjustment of the whole matter. Amidst the storm of political and party strife he bears with him the consciousness of rectitude, which he knows will carry him triumphantly through all dangers, and a firmness of purpose upon which good men may confidently rely for the safety of the Republic, under any possible emergency.

Complaints of the course pursued by the President and the Cabinet are not confined to the Democratic papers. The Whig papers seem to complain that the President does not keep the Whig party in Congress in a perfect state of discipline and subordination.

It has long been said, by the Whig party, that from the accession of Gen. Jackson to the Presidency our Government has taken a wide departure from its true theory, and that Executive influence, Executive patronage, Executive dictation, and Executive veto had resolved the Government into the one-man power, and almost annihilated the Legislature. Congress, under Democratic auspices, had ceased to be what it was intended to be under the Constitution, the independent and only legitimate organ for the expression of the public will.

To check this course, to correct this great evil, to bring back our Government to its true theory, was avowedly one great object sought in the election of Gen. Taylor. That the Executive should keep within its own orbit, confining itself to giving Congress official information of the state of the country, recommending proper measures and exercising the veto power only to prevent encroachments on the Executive, and check hasty and unconstitutional legislation, are principles which were all fully presented by Gen. Taylor, and sustained by his election. Since his election, the President has conformed his conduct to these principles. He has not by himself or by his Ministers attempted to influence the action of the individual members of Congress by solicitation, promises, appointments, or menace. This, surely, should not be matter of complaint by the Whig party. The President and his Ministers have laid before Congress a full statement of the condition of the country and the state of the several Departments of the Government. The President has recommended such measures as in his view are required for the country; and there has been on his part no disguise, suppression, or concealment. It now rests entirely with Congress to proceed in the business of legislation.

No doubt any member of Congress desiring further information from any branch of the Executive, will, on request, be frankly and cheerfully supplied with it; but, if the Executive seek consultations and hold particular intimacy with particular Members, it gives offence to others and furnishes occasion to charge the President with disregarding the principles avowed in his election, by not leaving Congress and its members unbiased and independent. This, however correct, does not appear to be satisfactory to all the Whig party, and some seem disposed to complain that the party is not schooled, dictated to, and dragged into obedience and subordination by Gen. Taylor in the same manner as was condemned by the Whigs in the opposite party.

It is now stated in sundry Whig papers, through their correspondents from Washington in some cases, and in others by their Editors, that there is a want of cordiality and concert between the Cabinet and the Whig Members of Congress; that the Cabinet is isolated, inaccessible, and does not consult the Whig members. This is regarded as a cause of complaint or charge against the Cabinet, and no doubt was so intended by those who have instigated it and by those who have put it forth.

The desire among the Whig members for consultation with the Cabinet is almost exclusively as to appointments to office; and it is obvious that, if such consultations are courted by the Cabinet, it must be with a view to follow out the advice so obtained. To seek, and then disregard advice, would be justly considered offensive. Now, as to consulting and following such advice, there are obstacles entirely insurmountable by the Executive, and a correction of which exists only with the party, and perhaps is an inherent and incurable condition of the party itself. It may be as well distinctly stated as disguised; and it is this: A part of the Whig party insists on an indiscriminate and entire proscription and change in the officers of the Government; while another part utterly opposes this as wrong in itself, and inconsistent with Whig professions. Again: Whenever any appointment is to be made, there is, in the Whig party, an uncompromising controversy prosecuted, as to what State shall have it, what section of the State, and what class of the various subdivisions of the party in the different States. No advice can be procured which is not thus conflicting; and no appointment can be made but would be unsatisfactory to the greatest number; and hence they complain that their advice and influence is not sought and followed by President or Cabinet. This is caught up by Whig papers, and is repeated and even made a matter of complaint and charge against the Executive, by professed friends. Even the New York «Courier and Enquirer» of the 26th instant presents it in this

light, the Editor saying that he thinks it «the duty of the President to consult the Whig party in regard to all great measures, &c. Now, how can this be done? To consult the party could be of no use unless its opinion were to be followed. And, we again ask, how can that be done, when the opinions obtained by such consultations are utterly conflicting and irreconcilable one with another? It is difficult to see how any other course but that which has thus far been pursued by the President and the Cabinet can be taken; that is, to make such appointments, recommend such measures, and make such administration of the Departments as are agreeable to well-known Whig principles and policy, guided by their best judgment, and with the best light they can obtain, and leave it to the Whig party who placed them in power to sustain and support, or to complain and abandon either the President or his Cabinet, as shall by them be thought best. It is probable that, while the party remains divided, some for Paul, some for Apollos, and some for Cephas, and so many each for himself, complaint, defeat, and disgrace will follow.

Much has been said of late about the allowance of claims. The truth is, there is much more real dissatisfaction about the rejection of claims, and of late many who have failed in their various applications for offices, for claims, for contracts, and projects, seem inclined to throw their various complaints into a common stock, and make a general charge on the whole Cabinet, and to procure a general change, that they may have another chance of succeeding in the claims, contracts, and various private plans and projects which the several members of this Cabinet have rejected.

The number of Whig members of Congress who participate in this course is believed to be small, and, instead of constituting the party, which remains sound and faithful, are but the exceptions, who do not perhaps always disclose the true ground of their complaints.

THE NASHVILLE CONVENTION AT RICHMOND.

The City of Richmond has given the coup de grace to the project of a Convention of the Southern States to be held at Nashville. The breath is out of its body.

On Friday evening last was held an adjourned Meeting of the People of the City of Richmond to decide upon the expediency of sending Delegates from that district of Virginia to the Convention; and the proposition to that effect was voted down by 214 votes against 105. This, it is obvious, was not a full meeting of the People of Richmond, owing probably to its following so immediately the excitement of the days of election preceding it. A large proportion of all the absentees must have consisted of persons who were inimical or indisposed to it. The want of vitality in the project was sufficiently shown in the thinness of the attendance. The fact that at least one-half of the People of Richmond would not take the trouble to go to the meeting to vote upon the question either *pro* or *con*, shows, beyond doubt, that the sober sense of the People is a safe reliance against the success of the best laid plans of political schemers and revolutionists.

The same sound sense of the People—the same rational content with the Constitution as it is, has been evinced by the masses of the People in nearly every Southern State, as newspapers and letters from that country assure us. Of the latter description of evidence, take the following extract of a Letter from a Subscriber to this paper in one of the lower counties of North Carolina, under date of April 25:

«As to the Nashville Convention, we are all opposed to it in this section of country. I have not heard the first man speak in favor of it. There is indeed no excitement or feeling at all on the subject, in any way; and so far as I can learn, the same indifference, or rather opposition, exists in at least twenty surrounding counties in this section of the Old North State. We go for leaving the matter for Congress to settle.»

FURTHER FROM MEXICO.

The New Orleans Picayune has dates from Vera Cruz to the 14th, and from the city of Mexico to the 11th instant.

The extra session of Congress is approaching a close. It is said that the Government would convoke another.

The committee on public credit has reported a bill for the regulation of the foreign debt. It provides for a national fund of \$10,241,658, at 3 per cent. interest, to be applied exclusively to the English debt. For the sum of two millions of dollars a receipt in full is to be given to the United States for the indemnity due in May, 1850, and for a million and a half a receipt is to be given for the amount due in 1851.

The Government employs, &c. only got half their salaries this month. The treasury ran short.

The cholera had not diminished. It had appeared at Queretaro, within fourteen leagues of the capital. In some places, as at Morelia, La Piedad, Silao, and La Luz, the hurricane had driven the epidemic away.

At Piedad, containing a population of 3,000, about 1,000 had died. At many other points the disease was raging, and in some of them very violently.

The city of Mexico was, on the 22nd ultimo, visited by a double calamity. In the first place, at about 10 o'clock in the morning, a southwest wind commenced blowing with great violence, and shortly became a perfect hurricane, such as had never been experienced in Mexico in the memory of the oldest inhabitants. From midday till 5 o'clock in the evening the hurricane raged with unintermittent fury; walls were overturned, signs carried off, and twelve large trees in the Alameda were blown down. The streets were filled with debris, and were rendered for a time impassable. At Puebla the effects of the hurricane were less severely felt than at the capital.

At the moment when this tempest was at its height, the town sounded from all the churches in the city, and the cry of fire resounded through the streets, which, but a moment before almost deserted, soon were filled with an affrighted crowd. The cause of the alarm was a fire which had broken out in the carriage shop of Wilson & Hipe, Span street, just in that part of the city where the hurricane raged most fearfully. In less than an hour that establishment and many adjacent houses were destroyed. The violence of the wind not only rendered useless all efforts to extinguish the flames, but carried the burning embers to a great distance. In this manner the city was set on fire in two other places—at the carriage shop of Mr. Petricio Diamond, New Mexico street, and at a point near the Alameda. The pumps failed, water was scarce, the fire department was badly organized, and the wind continued to blow with the same fury, so that it was believed, not without reason, that these three fires, at distant points, would lead to a general conflagration. Happily, however, the great solidity which characterizes the structure of Mexican houses stopped the progress of the flames about 5 o'clock in the evening. About a hundred families were deprived of their homes by this lamentable catastrophe. The damage is estimated at \$500,000. During the fire the French Foreign Legion, under the order of M. Le Vapour, the French Minister, did good service, and one of its members was severely wounded. A young sculptor, named Jose Maria Masenda, was nearly killed. The Minister of Relations had appointed a committee of four to collect and receive subscriptions in aid of the sufferers, and the President had headed the list with a donation of \$100.

A VALUABLE CARGO.—The *barque Maria*, Capt. Baker of Boston, has arrived at New Bedford in the short passage of 120 days from Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, with a cargo of 1,300 lbs. sperm oil, 1,100 lbs. whale oil, and 220,000 lbs. of whalebone, together with 464 ounces of gold dust, the entire cargo being valued at \$139,000. The *Maria* was one of the first vessels which sailed from Boston for California after the breaking out of the gold fever.

THE NEW BRITISH TREATY.

Yesterday morning, the Sabbath, the Sabbath, was desecrated by the appearance in the editorial columns of the «Union» newspaper of a most unprincipled attempt to misrepresent the character of the new Treaty negotiated between the United States and Great Britain, with a view, if possible, to influence the Senate to reject it.

We have yet to learn that there is any opposition whatever in the Senate to this Treaty; or that there is any danger of the factious spirit disclosed in the «Union» so far making its way into the councils of this country as to sacrifice its best interests, in connexion with foreign Powers, on the altar of political partisanship.

We have no means of access to the new Treaty which is not common to all. But we have heard those who have the means of knowing its whole merits declare—and that, too, without distinction of party—that it is a Treaty in the highest degree advantageous to this country, and reflecting high honor on both the great nations which are parties to it. The miserable declaration of the Union that this negotiation has *sold us to the British* is only worthy of the sheet which could publish such a misrepresentation.

We learn, from a gentleman who conversed with the Nicaraguan Minister, now in this city, that the Treaty negotiated by Mr. Hise—not only without but in opposition to his instructions from Mr. Buchanan, and negotiated even after he was out of office—was never ratified by the Congress of Nicaragua, whose assent to a Treaty is just as necessary as that of the Senate of the United States. The Treaty itself was a dead letter when it was brought here by Mr. Hise, and from what we have heard of its contents—nay, from what has been disclosed of those contents by the Union itself—we do not believe that a single Senator of the United States can be found who would have voted for it under any possible circumstances. For it not only proposed to involve this country in an unnecessary and entangling alliance with Nicaragua, by guaranteeing the sovereignty and independence of all Nicaragua and her territorial claim, from the Caribbean sea to the Pacific—thus involving us inevitably in a war with England without the slightest necessity for it—but it was predicated on an assumption that the Congress of the United States would charter a great Corporation to make a Canal, and enjoy property and franchises unlimited, outside of the Territories of the United States and beyond the jurisdiction of the Government. The scheme was in this respect just as absurd as would have been the proposition to make a Corporation to construct a Canal in Europe. Such strict constructionists as the Editors of the Union profess to be, deny the right of Congress, under any circumstances, or for any purpose, to create a Corporation within our own territory; and we have never heard the most latitudinarian expositor of the Constitution contend that Congress could create a Corporation to make a Bank or a Canal in Cochinchina, or in Nicaragua. The scheme of Mr. Hise, as we have seen it described in the Union and other kindred prints, would, besides, have compelled the Government of the United States to exercise the exclusive ownership over the Canal, devolving upon us the duty and enormous expense of fortifying and commanding it, in order to protect it from the confiscation of the local Governments, and from the depredations of other nations. Our Treaty with Great Britain, on the contrary, according to the accounts of it, (and which the Union itself has published,) avoids the necessity and the expense of fortification or protection of the Canal—requiring no naval or military force for that purpose—by procuring the protection of all nations which derive the equal right of passing between ocean and ocean on that highway of nations.

The principles of the new Treaty are, as we understand them, in every particular fully sanctioned and sustained by the Message of President Polk, on the 10th day of February, 1847, communicating the Treaty of New Granada to the Senate for ratification. In that Treaty protection is guaranteed to a Panama Railroad or Canal; and in the Message referred to, it is expressly declared that all other nations are to be invited to protect the railroad or canal, on the same terms. There is not a single principle maintained in the negotiation of the treaty with Great Britain—for making which this Administration is charged by the «Union» with having sold their country to the British—which is not advanced and defended in the Message of President Polk; to which we have referred. That Message met with the unqualified approbation of the «Union» at the time. Nay, more: the resolution of the Senate of the 3d of March, 1835, alluded to in that Message, contained the whole principle upon which the new British Treaty has been negotiated. That resolution passed the Senate by a unanimous vote, met with the warm approbation of President Jackson, who sent a Diplomatic Agent to Central America and New Granada, to do the very thing which this Administration has successfully accomplished, and for which the «Union» now condemns it!

For the full understanding of this subject, we now republish the Message of President Polk, to which we specially invite the attention of our readers; and which, as we shall doubtless hereafter have occasion to call their attention to it, we ask them to preserve for future reference.

THE MESSAGE.

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit to the Senate, for their advice with regard to its ratification, «a general treaty of peace, amity, navigation, and commerce, between the United States of America and the Republic of New Granada», concluded at Bogota on the 12th of December last, by Benjamin A. Bidlack, chargé d'affaires of the United States, on the part, and by Manuel Maria Mallarino, Secretary of State and Foreign Relations, on the part of that Republic.

It will be perceived by the 35th article of this treaty, that New Granada proposes to guarantee to the Government and citizens of the United States the right of passage across the Isthmus of Panama, over the natural roads, and over any canal or railroad which may be constructed to unite the two seas, on condition that the United States shall make a similar guaranty to New Granada of the neutrality of this portion of her territory, and her sovereignty over the same.

The reasons which caused the insertion of this important stipulation in the treaty, will be fully made known to the Senate by the accompanying documents. From these, it will appear that our chargé d'affaires acted, in this particular, upon his own responsibility, and without instructions. Under such circumstances, it became my duty to decide whether I would submit the treaty to the Senate; and, after mature consideration, I have determined to adopt this course.

The importance of this concession to the commercial and political interests of the United States cannot easily be overrated. The route by the Isthmus of Panama is the shortest between the two oceans; and, from the information herewith

communicated, it would seem to be the most practicable for a railroad or canal.

The vast advantages to our commerce which would result from such a communication, not only with the west coast of America, but with Asia and the islands of the Pacific, are too obvious to require any detail. Such a passage would relieve us from a long and dangerous navigation of more than nine thousand miles around Cape Horn, and render our communication with our own possessions on the northwest coast of America comparatively easy and speedy.

The communication across the isthmus has attracted the attention of the Government of the United States ever since the independence of the South American Republics. On the 3d of March, 1835, a resolution passed the Senate in the following words:

«Resolved, That the President of the United States be respectfully requested to consider the expediency of opening negotiations with the Governments of other nations, and particularly with the Governments of Central America and New Granada, for the purpose of effectually protecting, by suitable treaty stipulations with them, such individuals or companies as may be desirous to open a communication between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, by the construction of a ship-canal across the isthmus which connects North and South America; and of securing forever, by such stipulations, the free and equal right of navigating such canal as all such nations, on the payment of such reasonable toll as may be established, to compensate the capitalists who may engage in such undertaking and complete the work.»

No person can be more deeply sensible than myself of the danger of entangling alliances with any foreign nation. That we should avoid such alliances has become a maxim of our policy, consecrated by the most venerated names which adorn our history, and sanctioned by the unanimous voice of the American people. Our own experience has taught us the wisdom of this maxim in the only instance—that of the guaranty to France of her American possessions—in which we have ever entered into such an alliance. If, therefore, the very peculiar circumstances of the present case do not greatly impair, if not altogether destroy, the force of this objection, then we ought not to enter into the stipulation, whatever may be its advantages. The general considerations which have induced me to transmit the treaty to the Senate, for their advice, may be summed up in the following particulars:

1. The treaty does not propose to guaranty a territory to a foreign nation in which the United States will have no common interest with that nation. On the contrary, we are more deeply and directly interested in the subject of this guaranty than New Granada herself, or any other country.

2. The guaranty does not extend to the territories of New Granada generally, but is confined to the single province of the Isthmus of Panama, where we shall acquire by the treaty a common and co-extensive right of passage with herself.

3. It will constitute no alliance for any political object, but for a purely commercial purpose, in which all the navigating nations of the world have a common interest.

4. In entering into the mutual guaranties proposed by the 35th article of the treaty, neither the Government of New Granada nor that of the United States has any narrow or exclusive views. The ultimate object, as presented by the Senate of the United States in their resolution to which I have already referred, is to secure to all nations the free and equal right of passage over the isthmus. If the United States, as the chief of the American nations, should first become a party to this guaranty, it cannot be doubted—indeed, it is confidently expected by the Government of New Granada—that similar guaranties will be given to that Republic by Great Britain and France. Should the proposition thus tendered be rejected, we may deprive the United States of the influence which its acceptance might secure to them, and confer the glory and benefits of being first among the nations in concluding such an arrangement upon the Government either of Great Britain or France. That either of these Governments would embrace the offer, cannot well be doubted; because there does not appear to be any other effectual means of securing to all nations the advantages of this important passage, but the guaranty of great commercial Powers that the isthmus shall be neutral territory. The interests of the world at stake are so important, that the security of this passage between the two oceans cannot be suffered to depend upon the wars and revolutions which may arise among different nations.

Besides, such a guaranty is almost indispensable to the construction of a railroad or canal across the territory. Neither sovereign States nor individuals would expend their capital in the construction of these expensive works, without some such security for their investments.

The guaranty of the sovereignty of New Granada over the isthmus is a natural consequence of the guaranty of its neutrality, and there does not seem to be any other practicable mode of securing the neutrality of this territory. New Granada would not consent to yield up this province in order that it might become a neutral State; and if she should, it is not sufficiently populous or wealthy to establish and maintain an independent sovereignty. But a civil government must exist there, in order to protect the works which shall be constructed. New Granada is a power which will not excite the jealousy of any nation. If Great Britain, France, or the United States held the sovereignty over the isthmus, other nations might apprehend that, in case of war, the Government would close up the passage against the enemy; but no such fears can ever be entertained in regard to New Granada.

This treaty removes the heavy discriminating duties against us in the ports of New Granada, which have nearly destroyed our commerce and navigation with that Republic, and which we have been in vain endeavoring to abolish for the last twenty years.

It may be proper, also, to call the attention of the Senate to the 25th article of the treaty, which prohibits privateering in case of war between the two Republics; and also to the additional article, which nationalizes all vessels of the parties, which «shall be provided by the respective Governments with a patent issued according to its laws»; and, in this particular, goes further than any of our former treaties.

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 10, 1847.

JAMES K. POLK.

DISASTERS AND DEPLORABLE LOSS OF LIFE.—At New York, on Monday morning, a gang of eleven laborers were engaged in removing the rubbish and burnt goods from the store of Darling, Albertson & Rose, in Front st., (destroyed by the fire of Wednesday night last,) the peak of the gable end of the adjoining building, owned by Stephen Whitney, and occupied as a bonded warehouse, being pressed out by the weight of the goods stored within, fell with a tremendous crash, and buried the men beneath the ruins.

One man, named Deonion, was killed outright; another, Edward McChyne, had his legs broken, and was otherwise seriously injured; a third escaped with comparatively slight injuries.

The remainder of the party, at two o'clock in the afternoon, still remained covered by a heavy mass of brick, but measures were in progress, through the concerted action of the mayor, chief of police, and his aids, for their rescue. Their names are as follows: Hugh McChyne, John Harvey, John Horgan, Wm. Pratt, Michael Connor, John Driscoll, John Levy, Tom Lehey, John Hays, and Patrick Barry.

As the walls of the store on the opposite side of the ruins were much pressed out and threatened to fall, it was first necessary to shore it up, before any thing could be done for the relief of the sufferers. It was feared, however, that they were all dead.

About the same hour a similar accident, attended with most painful circumstances, though not with so large a sacrifice of life, occurred at the old Chemical Bank building, adjoining the American Museum. While a number of workmen were employed in removing the old edifice, preparatory to the erection of the new, a portion of the flooring gave way, and buried them in the ruins. A strong detachment of police were soon on the ground, and efficiently at work in clearing away the ruins, and such success that in less than an hour all beneath them were extricated. Eight persons in all were so badly hurt, that it was necessary to convey them to the hospital. Their names were Matthew Kearhan, John Golden, Michael Macleaven, John Trainor, Thomas Karr, Patrick Brady, Samuel Hunter, and James Hughes.

FOR CALIFORNIA.—The steamship *Ohio* sailed from New York on Saturday afternoon for Havana and New Orleans, touching at Charleston and Savannah. The passengers bound to California will be transferred, with the mails, to the steamship *Falco*, at Havana, and the *Ohio* will then proceed to New Orleans. The *Ohio* takes out from the city of New York four hundred and forty-six passengers, principally bound to California.

The steamship *Crescent City* is to leave New York on Wednesday for Jamaica and Chagres. A large number of passengers bound to California have engaged in her already.

Mr. Baldwin, who some time ago murdered his own brother-in-law, at St. Louis, and was acquitted upon trial, on the plea of insanity, has since murdered his own father.

LAND TITLES IN CALIFORNIA.

We have received a copy of a report made to the Department of the Interior by WILLIAM CAREY JONES, Esq., who was sent to California as a confidential agent of the Government to inquire into the condition of Land Titles in that country. His report, which is contained in a pamphlet of about forty pages, makes a very full exposition of the origin and character of these titles, and contains a large amount of valuable and interesting information.

Mr. Jones says that all the grants of land made in California (except pueblo or village lots, and except perhaps some grants north of the bay of San Francisco, as will be hereafter noticed) subsequent to the independence of Mexico, and after the establishment of that government in California, were made by the different political governors. On the 21st of January, 1828, the Government defined the process of securing these titles:

«The directions were very simple. They gave the governors of the Territories the exclusive faculty of making grants within the term of the law; that is, to the extent of leagues, or individuals; and colonization grants or larger tracts to empresarios; or persons who should undertake, for a consideration in lands, to bring families to the country for the purpose of colonization. In case the concurrence of the Deputation was refused to a grant of the first mentioned class, the governor should appeal, in favor of the grantee, from the Assembly to the Supreme Government.»

There is much difficulty in establishing records. Of this Mr. Jones speaks at length:

«The same year a *presidio* was established at Monterey, and a mission establishment begun. Subsequently, the Dominican friars obtained leave from the King to take charge of a part of the missions of California, which led to an arrangement between the two societies, whereby the missions of Lower California were committed to the Dominicans, and the entire field of the upper province to the Franciscans. This arrangement was sanctioned by the political authority, and continues to the present time.

«The new establishments flourished, and rapidly augmented their numbers, occupying first the space between Diego and Monterey, and subsequently extending to the northward. A report from the Viceroy to the King, dated at Mexico on the 27th of December, 1793, gives the following account of the number, time of establishment, and locality of the missions existing in New California at that time.»

Missions.	Situations.	When founded.
1. San Diego de Alcalá.	lat. 32° 42'	
2. San Carlos de Monterey.	36 33	June 19, 1769.
3. San Antonio de Padua.	36 34	July 3, 1770.
4. San Gabriel de los Trembores.	34 10	Sept. 8, 1771.
5. San Luis Obispo.	31 38	Sept. 1, 1772.
6. San Francisco (Dolores).	37 56	October 9, 1776.
7. San Juan Capistrano.	33 30	Nov. 1, 1776.
8. Santa Clara.	37 00	Jan. 18, 1777.
9. San Buenaventura.	34 36	March 31, 1782.
10. San Barbara.	34 28	October 4, 1786.
11. Purisima Concepcion.	35 32	Jan. 8, 1787.
12. Santa Cruz.	30 58	Aug. 28, 1791.
13. La Soledad.	36 38	October 8, 1791.

«At first, the missions nominally occupied the whole territory, except the four small military posts of San Diego, Santa Barbara, Monterey, and San Francisco; that is, the limits of one mission were said to cover the intervening space to the limits of the next; and there were no other occupants except the wild Indians, whose reduction and conversion was the object of the establishments. The Indians, as fast as they were reduced, were trained to labor in the mission, and lived either within its walls, or in small villages near by, under the spiritual and temporal direction of the priests, but the whole political control of the governor of the province, who decided contested questions of right or policy, whether between different missions, between missions and individuals, or concerning the Indians. Soon, however, grants of land began to be made to individuals, especially to retired soldiers, who received special favor in the distant colonies of Spain, and became the settlers and founders of the country they had reduced and protected. Some settlers were also brought from the neighboring provinces of Sonora and Sinaloa, and the towns of San Jose at the head of the Bay of San Francisco, and of Los Angeles, eight leagues from the port of San Pedro, were early founded. The governor exercised the privilege of making concessions of large tracts, and captains of the presidios were authorized to grant building lots, and small tracts for gardens and farms, within the distance of two leagues from the presidios. By these means the mission tracts began respectively to have something like known boundaries; though the lands they thus occupied were still not viewed, in any light, as the property of the missionaries, but as the domain of the crown, appropriated to the use of the missions while the state of the country should require it, and at the pleasure of the political authority.

«I took much pains, both in California and in Mexico, to assure myself of the situation, in a legal and proprietary point of view, of the former great establishments known as the mission of California. It had been supposed that the lands they occupied were grants held as the property of the church, or of the mission establishments as corporations. Such, however, was not the case. All the missions in Upper California were established under the direction and mainly at the expense of the Government, and the missionaries there had never any other right than to the occupation and use of the lands for the purpose of the missions, and at the pleasure of the Government. This is shown by the history and principles of their foundation, by the laws in relation to them, by the constant practice of the Government toward them, and, in fact, by the rules of the Franciscan order, which forbid its members to possess property.

«The establishment of missions in remote provinces was part of the colonial system of Spain. The Jesuits, by a license from the Viceroy of New Spain, commenced in this manner the reduction of Lower California in the year 1697. They continued in the spiritual charge, and in a considerable degree of the temporal government of that province until 1767, when the royal decree abolishing the Jesuit order throughout New Spain was there enforced, and the mission taken out of their hands.

«They had then founded fifteen missions, extending from Cape St. Lucas nearly to the head of the sea of Cortes, or California gulf. Three of the establishments had been suppressed by order of the Viceroy; the remainder were now put in charge of the Franciscan monks of the college of San Fernando, in Mexico, hence sometimes called «*Fernandinos*». The prefect of that college, the Rev. Father Junipero Serra, proceeded in person to his new charge, and arrived, with a number of monks, at Lereto, the capital of the peninsula, the following year, (1768.) He was there soon after joined by Don Jose Galvez, inspector general (*visitador*) of New Spain, who brought an order from the King directing the foundation of one or more settlements in Upper California.

It was therefore agreed that Father Junipero should extend the mission establishments into Upper California, under the protection of *presidios*, (armed posts,) which the Government would establish at San Diego and Monterey. The expeditions, both accompanied by missionaries, who are consequently fitted out, one to proceed by sea the other by land, to the new territory. In June, 1769, they had arrived, and that month founded the first mission, about two leagues from the port of San Diego. A *presidio* was established at the same time near the port.

Of course, between the various grants there is constant conflict, one portion of the tenures being based on Spanish, another on Mexican, a third on California, and finally others on Revolutionary authority, (Bear flag.) Mr. Jones thinks the interest of the United States may be secured by judicious procedures. He says:

«The grants in California, I am bound to say, are mostly perfect titles; that is, the holders possess their property by title, under the law which created them, were equivalent to patents from our Government; and those which are not perfect—that is, which lack some formality, or some evidence of completeness—have the same *equity* as those which are perfect, and were and would have been equally respected under the Government which has passed away. Of course, I allude to grants made in good faith, and not to simulated grants, if there be any such, issued since the persons who made them ceased from their functions in that respect.

«I think the state of land titles in that country will allow the public land to be ascertained, and the private

lands set apart, by judicious measures, with little difficulty. Any measure calculated to discredit, or cause to be distrusted, the general character of the titles there, besides the alarm and anxiety which it would create among the ancient population, and among all present holders of property, would, I believe, also retard the substantial improvement of the country. A title discredited is not destroyed, but every one is afraid to touch it, or, at all events, to invest labor and money in improvements that rest on a suspected tenure. The holders are afraid to improve; others are afraid to purchase, or, if they do, purchase at its discredited value, willing only to make inconsiderable investments upon it. The titles not called in question, (as they certainly, for any reason which I could discover, do not deserve to be,) the pressure of population, and the force of circumstances, will soon operate to break up the existing large tracts into farms of such extent as the nature of the country will allow of, and the wants of the community require; and under these circumstances, and with such assurance of tenure, as will warrant those substantial improvements that the thrift and prosperity of the country in other respects invite.

«I think the rights of the Government will be fully secured, and the interests and permanent prosperity of all classes in that country best consulted, by no other general measure in relation to private property than an authorized survey, according to the grants, where the grants are modern, or since the accession of the Mexican Government, reserving the overplus; or according to ancient possession, where it dates from the time of the Spanish Government, and the written evidence of the grant is lost, or does not afford data for the survey. But, providing that in any case where, from the opinion of the proper law officer or agent of the Government in the State, or from information in any way received, there may be reason to suppose a grant invalid, the Government (or a proper officer of it) may direct a suit to be instituted for its annulment.»

THE NASHVILLE CONVENTION.

FROM THE JEFFERSON COUNTY (MO.) INQUIRER OF APRIL 18.

Governor KING has politely furnished us the following resolution and letter of Governor QUITMAN, of Mississippi, for publication, deeming it the best mode of informing the Delegates from this State of the desire of the citizens of Jackson, Mississippi to accommodate them, as he is at a loss to know who they are, or where they reside. There is no one in this city, to our knowledge, who contemplates attending this Convention—not one, not one—and if there are any throughout the State, we would request them to bear in mind that the people of Tennessee—the grave of Jackson—repudiated this Convention, and said the State should not be disgraced with it. We think it high time the Nullifiers in this State would name their delegates, as the Convention meets in June next.

RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO THE NASHVILLE CONVENTION. Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, That the Capitol of this State be and is hereby tendered for the use of the Convention of Delegates of the Southern States, appointed by such States, the Legislature, or people thereof, to meet in Nashville in June next; and that the Governor of this State be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the Governors of each of the slaveholding States of this Union, to be by them made known to such Delegates.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, JACKSON, MARCH 14, 1850.

SIR: In transmitting the enclosed resolution, I beg leave to add, that should the Delegates to the Southern Convention think it to assemble at this place, they will receive a cordial welcome from the citizens of Mississippi.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant, J. A. QUITMAN.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR of MISSOURI.

FROM JAMAICA.